is the constant endeavour of banks to assist the beneficiaries within the laid down norms and prescribed procedures.

Excess transportation charges paid by SAIL

1014. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Financial Express on the 29th January, 1991, regarding excess payment of Rs. 26.60 lakh by the SAIL for transportation of imported steel material at Paradip port; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b) The transportation of HR Coils in Paradip Port was done by SAIL at the request of the port authorities who did not have adequate equipment to carry out this work. For this purpose, open tenders were called for by SAIL, on the basis of which a contract was awarded to M/s. Orissa State Commercial Transportation Corporation Limited, which is a Government of Orissa undertaking. The total amount paid to this company was Rs. 26.59 lakhs.

While no department enquiry was conducted in this case, it was one of the cases looked into by the vigilance Wing of SAIL as a part of their preventive excercises and after obtaining the comments of the concerned departments, it was found that no further action on this was necessary.

Depreciation in the value of rupee

1015. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of depreciation of the real value of rupee over the past three years and the latest position in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): The value of the Indian Rupee measured as reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for industrial workers on base 1982-100 works out to 50.25 paise in December, 1990 (latest available). The value of Rupee was 57.14 paise in December, 1989 and 60.24 paise in December, 1988.

Income-tax raids

1016. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of income tax raids conducted during the last financial year and the results thereof; and

(b) what are the names of cine artists who were found to have evaded income-tax and the amounts thereof in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Income-tax Department conducted 3984 searches during the financial year 1989-90. In the course of these searches, besides incriminating books and documents assets of the value of Rs. 128.02 crores were seized.

(b) It may not be practicable to collect information relating to evasion of income-tax by cine artists, who may include actors, actresses, film directors, music directors, singers, lyricists and others, as it would involve examination of the assessment records of all these persons who are assessed to tax by different officers at various places in the country.

Steps taken to Promote Indo-Pak Trade

1017. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken recently to promote Indo-Pak trade;

(b) what are the new items identified to be covered in the trade between India and Pakistan; and

(c) what is the trade target set for 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL): (a) Discussions at the official level and exchange of trade delegations are measures taken for promoting Indo-Pak trade.

(b) and (c) It is intended to broaden trade exchanges with Pakistan in the entire range of products. No trade targets are fixed for this purpose.

Wage Agreement with Manganese Ore India Limited

1018. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently recommended some increase in the emoluments of workers of Manganese Ore India Limited, Nagpur over and above the benefits accruing from wage agreement reached on 14th February, 1990 between the Management and the Union;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of the said increase;

(c) whether orders have been issued giving effect to the increase; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government do not see any reason why the Wage agreement reached between the Management and the Union should be revised.

Implementation of 'Shallow Depth Mining Scheme'

1019. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum dated 1st January, 1991 has been received from the Bharat Gold Mines Employees' Union (CITU), Karnataka pleading for implementation of 'Shallow Depth Mining Scheme' for more profitable results as proposed by an Expert Commitee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum has stated that Shallow Gold Deposits which are available in the Kolar Fields should be taken up for exploitation and this would be more profitable than deep mining and also generate additional employment. This may also avoid transfer of workmen to outside projects causing hardship to them

Government are examining the techno-economic feasibility of working the Shallow Gold Deposits at KGF and a decision will be taken after such examination.

Nominees of Central Government on the Board of Management of Regional Rural Banks

1020. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of nominees of the Central Government on the Boards of Management of various Regional Rural Banks, who are continuing for more than two years;

(b) what are the details thereof, banks-wise; and

(c) by when such nominees are likely to be replaced?